

Carrie & the Easter Bunny bring in the May Flowers!

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ECHO

MAY 2017

The Congregational Church of Jefferson Park

United Church of Christ

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Chicago, IL 60630

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From the Pastor—Gayle Tucker

“How is your congregation or organization living into the United Church of Christ commitment to work for a Just World for All?”¹

This is the opening question of an article in a recent edition of the UCC’s “Keeping You E-Posted” newsletter. Our General Minister and President Rev. John C. Dorhauer will be traveling around the country this spring asking this question. He will also be “offering a preview of an all-church mission initiative that will be introduced at General Synod, as part of the Just World for All vision, 3 Great Loves: Love of Children, Love of Creation, Love of Neighbor.”

Parker Palmer writes that “the mission of the church is not to enlarge its membership, not to bring outsiders to accept its terms, but simply to love the world in every possible way--to love the world as God did and does.”² Gail R. O’Day states that the mission of the church ought to be “to bear unceasing witness to the love of God in Jesus.”³

Are you sensing a theme here? A certain four-letter word is essential to the mission of the church: LOVE.

How do we make Love essential to what we do and who we are as a congregation? How are we, as a congregation, showing God's Love, and our love, of children? Of creation? Of our neighbors? And how is God's Love working through us to work toward a Just World for All?

I encourage you to prayerfully consider these questions, and then to discuss them with your family and with others in the congregation.

**Blessings,
Gayle**

ATTENDANCE

April 2, 2017 Adults 37 Children 4
April 9, 2017 Adults 31 Children 4
April 13, 2017- Maundy Thursday Adults 20
April 16, 2017- Early Easter Service Adults &
Children 26
11 am Easter Service Adults & Children 50
April 23, 2017 Adults 28 Children 5

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Dave Benegas and his daughters, Karen Lombardo, Linda Elam, and Marsha O'Shea, as well as the extended family and friends of Mary Benegas, who passed away suddenly on March 30, 2017. Mary attended CCJP for many years, was Treasurer of the Guild, member of the OAYA group, loved listening to the choir, and was always there to lend a hand. She will be missed.

GIRL SCOUTS

Please join Troop 41640 in Mayflower Hall on Sunday April 30, 2017 at 2pm for an Afternoon Tea and Visit from Juliette Gordon Low from the year 1920! We will imagine a time on Lookout Mountain in Georgia at Camp Julliette Low where she will guide us through the woods on nature walks, cook our

meals over a campfire and sleep under the stars. Adapted and performed by Betsey Means, Artistic Director of WomanLore. The show is approximately 50 minutes followed by a Q & A. Ticket price is \$12. Please contact Carrie Lawlor for reservations at carrieannlawlor@comcast.net or 312-282-2058.

HYMNS

Would you like to sing a particular hymn from The New Century Hymnal during worship? Check out the request forms in Mayflower Hall!

OAYA- OLDER AND YOUNGER ADULT GROUP

OAYA went to see the movie “The Shack” at the Pickwick Theatre which inspired a lively discussion on forgiveness, good, evil & the afterlife at the meeting in April. The next meeting, May 7, 2017, focuses on the book Playing with Fire by Tess Gerritsen. This exciting and easy to read novel switches back and forth between modern times and the Nazi occupation. Pick it up at your local library & join in!

WAYS AND MEANS

Don't forget our KARAOKE & BLACK TIE HOT DOG DINNER! SATURDAY, May 20th, 2017 !!!!! Doors open at 5 PM. It's fun for the whole family and all your friends, and a great fund-raiser for the church!! Practice that new song you always wanted to sing!! (If you need the music for it, let Don or Steve Mendro know!!) Suggested donation is \$20 per person, but if that is out of your budget, donate what you can & dress up in your finest & come enjoy an evening of song (& dance!).

PRAYER LIST Jack Schmidt, Pat Blagg, John Hill, Anita Ilika, Jennifer Schultz, Jenn Kovacs.

MAY BIRTHDAYS 9 Marilyn Ebenstein, 10 Anita Ilika, 10 Helen Anderson, 18 Mike Bezanson, 21 Jan Owens, 30 Bob Schaefer.

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

**Receipts: \$6,916.78 Year to Date: \$36,284.81
Disbursements: (\$11,954.20) Year to Date:
(\$36,789.43)**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We are happy to report that the new sound system has been installed in the sanctuary and works great, however Pastors Gale's wireless clip-on microphone still doesn't connect with the system. We aim to correct it in the near future.

We're sorry to say there has been no movement from our insurance company about the broken doors. They continue to search for replacements. The problem is that doors like ours will have to be custom made along with new frames, sidelight panels etc. As the doors work and are secure, we are fine for now. The high cost of making and installing them is slowing down the process, as the insurance company continues to get bids.

Our new security system is in the process of being installed and tested. Further details will be forthcoming when it is up and running.

Our thanks to Don Mendro for power washing the kitchen floor mats, which desperately needed cleaning. They are heavy, hard to handle and time consuming to do.

MORE WAYS AND MEANS

Our *Spaghetti Dinner & Dime Social* was a huge success. Our thanks to our scout troop setting up the tables Thursday night. Work started on Friday Morning continuing all day Saturday. Volunteers were covering the tables for eating and prizes, wrapping silverware, setting up over 500 prizes and containers, arranging prizes, decorating the hall and tables, and working on seating arrangements. A new lighted welcome sign was made by Don Mendro. Meanwhile, at the ready were 59,620 tickets that were hand stamped over the past few months, of which 44, 699 were sold.

At the same time, work was ongoing in the kitchen- recleaning counters, cutting 40 tomatoes, peeling and slicing 15 pounds of cucumbers, rinsing and breaking up 36 stalks of romaine lettuce & 5 heads of iceberg lettuce. 8 jello cakes were made. At the same time 14 gallons of Spaghetti sauce was prepared, along with 20 pounds of spaghetti. 800 meatballs were baked in the oven to be added to the sauce. As dinner approached, over 400 slices of garlic bread were being placed in the oven, 150 cups of coffee were brewing, and 24 wine carafes were ready to be placed on the tables. (We would like to thank Dave Benegas for picking

up and donating the wine.) 6 coolers were filled with pop, water, & juice boxes. Dish washing was continuously going on for two days. (UGH). I know that at least 20 people were involved in this dinner, and we really appreciate their help and dedication in this event. THANK YOU! We couldn't do it without you.

Finally, a huge thank you to all supported this event. We took in a total of \$7,272.00 and we made an approximate total of \$6,772.00 after expenses. Again, a big thanks to all.--
Art Rathke

CARSON'S COMMUNITY DAYS

We just received our check from Carson's for a whopping \$573.30. (This check is from a portion of all the books that were sold at the registers during the entire sale and the biggest check we have received.) I believe this brings out total for the sale to over \$1,900. Thanks again to all who made this possible.--Janet Rathke

EASTER FLOWERS

Since Pastor Gayle and others are allergic to Lilies, we have used artificial lilies in the sanctuary during Easter time. Each Lily has been purchased by members and friends of the congregation and dedicated to loved ones. At the current time, I cannot find my dedication list. The lilies will remain in the sanctuary until Pentecost. If anyone would like to purchase an artificial lily to add to these, please let me know. I hope to have the dedication list ready by next month. If those of you that have already purchased the nine Lilies would contact me so I can be sure my list is correct, it would be greatly appreciated.-- Janet Rathke 708-421-6179 or janut4@comcast.net.

A big thank you to Cathy Calato for getting the Easter Flowers, and decorating the sanctuary.

The following dedication was inadvertently omitted from the Easter Flower list-- “Happy Easter” --Love, The Lawlor Family. Our apologies for the error.

WOMENS' AND MENS' GUILD

The Guild meets Thursday May 11, 2017 at

11:30 am in Mayflower Hall. After a short meeting and luncheon, Muriel Morley will present a program about her travels in Sri Lanka.

The final total for the Rummage sale was \$3,151.03. Thanks again to everyone who made it possible!

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please add our soon-to-be new member to your church directory:

Linda Stettler

5515 W Lawrence #1

Chicago, IL 60630

312-286-7625

lstettle@icloud.com



Lunchtime during Rummage Sale set-up. (Around the table starting with Pastor Gayle- standing, Mary, Sandy, Edythe, Ruth, Joyce, Joanie, Marilyn.)



Vicki and Chuck have a blast at the
Bags Tournament.



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